



# SUMMER 2004 NEWSLETTER

Sahtu Renewable Resources Board - To protect, conserve & manage renewable resources

## Project Wild School Tour 2004



Public Education Specialist Brenda Hans from RWED, Yellowknife teamed up with the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board February 3rd to 12th and put on a joint tour in community schools. In addition to class exercises and projects, students of all ages got to see a scale model of a Bow Head Whale. Also called the Right Whale because it floats after being killed, the 16 metre long blow up whale barely fit in the gymnasiums! The model helped students visualize that just one of these animals equals about 400 caribou worth of meat. Better get a bigger freezer.



### In this issue:

Stories about:

- Project Wild
- Wildlife Health Tour
- Take a Kid Trapping
- Science Fair
- Small Mammal Study
- Bear Safety

## The Sahtu Wildlife Health School Tour 2004

The Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, supported the 2004 Sahtu Wildlife Health Tour this May. Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. Susan Kutz (University of Saskatchewan), Communications Officer Glen Guthrie (SRRB) and Wildlife Biologist Alasdair Veitch (RWED) visited four communities and provided public information sessions, along with day-long school events. Topics included general animal health of the Sahtu, the roll of the SRRB, careers in Biology and Veterinary Medicine, and parasites that live in the animals of the Sahtu. Dr Kutz had many specimens in collection jars for everyone to see. The northern expansion of southern animal parasites and diseases due to global warming is serious. Animal health, and therefore subsistence may be affected. It is very important that anyone who sees something different contact RWED or the SRRB immediately.



Under the direction of Dr. Kutz, the students of ?Ehtseo Ayha School in Deline performed necropsies on 5 lynx carcasses. General animal health was noted and some parasites were found, collected and viewed under a microscope. Next year's Sahtu Animal Health Monitoring Tour hopes to do similar dissections on martens at Chief ?Ehtseo Ayha School, Mackenzie Mountain School, and Chief Albert Wright School.



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Thank you very much to Red Dog Mtn Contracting Ltd for allowing access to the Small Mammal Population Study site behind their property. I would also like to thank the Hamlet of Tulita for permission to undertake the Take a Kid Trapping projects within the boundaries of Tulita. Finally, I wish to thank all the teachers and principals of the Sahtu for their co-operation, support and interest in promoting conservation education. The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board believes that the children are the future and that education in wildlife conservation will provide a strong basis for sustainable harvesting.



## Take a Kid Trapping

The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development—Sahtu Region have generously donated funding for the Take a Kid Trapping Program. This funding is being used by the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board to sponsor small day- or two-day-long trapping projects close to school grounds. So far, Chief Albert Wright School, Tulita and ?Ehtseo Ayha School, Deline have completed one or more trapping projects. These projects will extend to the other three schools early this fall. The primary target species are beaver and hare. Students are taken to a site by an instructor and shown the proper and safe techniques for setting snares and traps. Following capture, the animal is taken back to the school where the instructor demonstrates skinning and meat preparation skills. I would like to extend special thanks to Richard Andrew of Tulita and Chris Yukon of Deline for their assistance with these projects.

## The 2004 Sahtu Regional Science Fair

Congratulations to all the participants of the 2004 Sahtu Regional Science Fair!!! Dr. Susan Kutz, Alasdair Veitch and myself, Glen Guthrie, had the honour of helping to judge this year's event. Contributions by Norman Wells and Deline were interesting and ingenious. Hopefully, Chief T'Selehye School, Chief Albert Wright School, and Colville Lake School will be able to attend next year's Science Fair. This year, Dana Huffman, Dominique Rivard, Karla Lennie and Michel Erb were the overall winners for Grades 7 to 12 and attended the Canada Wide Science Fair in St. Johns Newfoundland. Karla Lennie and Michel Erb walked away with an Honourable Mention for their project on chemical reactions. Awesome job!

## Small Mammal Population Study

Chief Albert Wright School undertook a small mammal population study June 8th to 11th. This study looked at the health of local small mammal populations, particularly voles. Why are voles important? People don't eat them. But foxes and martens do. In fact, voles make up more than half the diets for these important fur-bearing animals. Healthy vole populations = healthy fox and marten populations. Special thanks goes to Joel Doctor who set up the project and Cyril Cardinal, Dean Doctor, James Ayha, and Robert Horassi for helping to clear the trail. Also, Joel was the official animal handler and co-leader in this project along with Glen Guthrie of the SRRB. The class was led by Teacher Dave Burghardt with students Jimmy Naedzo, Trevor Menacho, Bruce Boniface, and Glen Bird who actively participated in this important study. Thanks everyone. It was a total success.



## Bear Safety

RWED Conservation Officers Ryan Smith and Ron Doctor gave bear safety awareness presentations to the students of Chief Albert Wright School on Thursday June 10th. They helped the students understand bear behavior and told them what they should do if they ever encounter a bear. Remember: **DON'T RUN. LOOK BIG. DON'T YELL. BACK AWAY SLOWLY.** If you see a bear around town be sure to tell an adult, your teacher, RWED officers or the RCMP.



2004 Harvest Study Calendar are still available. See your local community interviewer for your copy today.

For more information, contact Janet Bayha at 588-4040 (collect).

